

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 1, 8, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pratt (US 6,591,198) in view of Gupta et al. (US 6,744,882) and further in
5 view of Inoue (JP 10290282).

Response:

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations previously found in claim 2. Claim 2 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent
10 form. No new matter is added through this amendment to claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 should now be in allowable form. Claims 8 and 9 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed as well. Reconsideration of claims 1, 8, and 9 is respectfully requested.

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2. Rejection of claims 10, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 10, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pratt (US 6,591,198) in view of Shawahashi (EP 0682419).

20 **Response:**

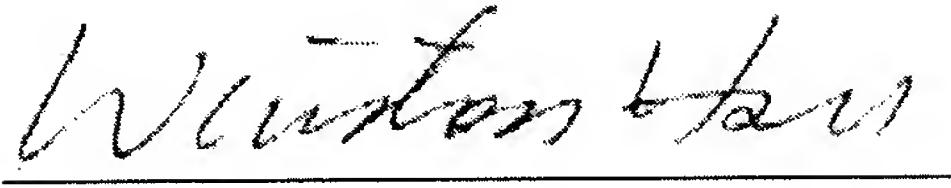
Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations previously found in claim 11. Claim 11 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. No new matter is added through this amendment to claim 10.

25 Therefore, claim 10 should now be in allowable form. Claims 17 and 18 are dependent on claim 10, and should be allowed as well. Reconsideration of claims 10, 17, and 18 is respectfully requested.

30 As all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Appl. No. 10/707,516
Amdt. dated May 10, 2007
Reply to Office action of March 27, 2007

Sincerely yours,



Date: 5/10/2007

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